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THE SNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Application of:

Daniel I. Kerpelman et al.

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date below:

May 1, 2002

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Lynda Howell

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED MARCH 1, 2002

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on March 1, 2002.

In the Office Action, claims 1-60 were rejected. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are requested.

Independent claims 1, 17, 32, 46 and 55 and dependent claims 2-16, 18-31, 33-45, 46-54 and 56-60 were rejected under 35 U.S. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wong et al. (6,260,021). All pending claims are believed to be clearly patentable for the reasons summarized below.

Claim 1 and The Claims Depending Therefrom

Claim 1 recites: